

Amendments to the Claims**CLAIMS:**

1-56, 58, 60, 61, 63 and 64 (Canceled).

57. (Original) A method of isolating RNA comprising an oligo- or polynucleotide from a sample comprising the steps of:

- (a) treating the sample with a reactant capable of covalently modifying the 2'-OH position of the ribose rings of the RNA under conditions so that a proportion of the 2'-OH positions of the ribose rings bear a substituent; and
- (b) preparing isolated RNA therefrom by separating material containing the substituent from the sample on the basis of a property of the substituent.

59. (Original) A kit for the preparative isolation of RNA comprising an oligo- or polynucleotide from a sample, which kit comprises:

- (i) a reaction system for modifying the RNA to form a modified oligo- or polynucleotide in which a proportion of the 2'-OH positions of the ribose rings bear a substituent; and
- (ii) a separation system for preparing isolated RNA by separating material containing the substituent from the sample on the basis of a property of the substituent.

62. (Original) A preparative device for isolating RNA comprising an oligo- or polynucleotide from a sample from a subject, which device comprises:

- (i) a means for extracting the sample from the subject;
- (ii) a reaction system for modifying RNA in the sample to form a modified oligo- or poly-nucleotide in which a proportion of the 2'-OH positions of the ribose rings bear a substituent; and
- (iii) a separation system for preparing isolated RNA by separating material containing the substituent from the sample on the basis of a property of the substituent.